

2/14/01

To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 1/16/01

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on January 16, 2001.

Announcements:

- MMS EIS scoping hearing 1/22/01 re: delineation drilling on 17 oil and gas leases.
- MMS 5-Year Leasing Program, preliminary comments due 2/1/01.
- Dan Basta meeting with SAC, 2/9/01.

Marine Reserves:

- Presentation by Sean Hastings and Greg Helms.

Sean provided the background, purpose, and process regarding the Marine Reserves Working Group (MRWG). Sean presented the "Problem Statement" and "Goals and Objectives" that have been approved by the MRWG. Sean also described the process whereby the MRWG is being provided information from a Science Team and a Socioeconomic Team.

Greg provided information about the issues facing the MRWG. He discussed the Science Team recommendations regarding the size and scope of marine reserves within the Sanctuary. He also noted the MRWG's commitment to minimize socioeconomic hardship, and to ensure equitable sharing of any economic hardships. He also discussed the need to include appropriate representation of habitat.

- Public discussion, comments, questions regarding the presentation and the role of the CINMS and MRWG in considering marine reserves. It was pointed out that the MRWG will provide a recommendation to the SAC, which will forward a recommendation to the Sanctuary Manager. The Sanctuary Manager will then forward the recommendation to the appropriate decision-making agencies (e.g., CA Fish and Game Commission, National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific Fisheries Management Council). The CINMS itself does not regulate fisheries, although the ultimate decision on marine reserves may be incorporated into the CINMS Management Plan. Involvement by the CINMS has provided a stakeholder forum to discuss the issue of marine reserves and to attempt a consensus recommendation by various interested parties.

- The following public opportunities were identified:

MRWG meetings

Evening forums that will be sponsored by the SAC and MRWG

SAC meetings

Agency workshops and hearings following a recommendation from the MRWG and SAC

- Sean announced that the Spring edition of Alolkoy will feature marine reserves.